

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace the paragraph starting on page 2, line 10, with the following paragraph:

-- The hardware-based multithreaded processor 12 also includes a central controller 20 that assists in loading micro code control for other resources of the hardware-based multithreaded processor 12 and performs other general purpose computer type functions such as handling protocols, exceptions, extra support for packet processing where the micro engines 22 pass the packets off for more detailed processing such as in boundary conditions. In one embodiment, the processor 20 is a Strong Arm® (Arm is a trademark of ARM Limited, United Kingdom) based architecture. The general-purpose microprocessor 20 has an operating system. Through the operating system the processor 20 can call functions to operate on micro engines 22a-22f. The processor 20 can use any supported operating system, preferably a real time operating system. For the core processor 20 implemented as Strong Arm architecture, operating systems such as, Windows NT®, VXWorks® and µCUS, a freeware operating system available over the Internet, can be used. --